

VZCZCXYZ0000
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0333 0981636
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 081636Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4770
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 3914
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2360
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1414
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0824
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2019
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 6117
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4346
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2295
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000333

SIPDIS

STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [EFIN](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: CHILE MEDIA REPORT - APRIL 8

Leading Stories

1. Opposition presidential candidate Sebastian Pinera is setting up a blind trust to administer the holdings he has in several companies. All dailies report on the 25-year sentencing of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

U.S.-Related News

2. Editorial: "Obama displays his charm"
"President Obama returns to the United States after a trip... that was in many ways very favorable.... Although he was unable to persuade countries such as Germany to embark on a new fiscal stimulus packages, he showed he is a skillful negotiator.... The press also noted his role in bringing closer together his Chinese and French counterparts.... In Strasburg... the U.S. President displayed all his charm by gathering a crowd of about 3,500 German and French youths to talk about the vision of his country as Europe's partner, not as a nation that imposes itself on others. The trip to... Turkey, the first as President to a Muslim country... was a landmark. There he underscored that the United States is not an enemy of Islam... and reminded his audience that he had had spent part of his childhood in a Muslim country.... The U.S. President radiates a charm that assures him good treatment by the press... and that creates instant sympathy among the masses. His charm, added to an important fact... that 'he is not George Bush'..., makes all the difference in the world's attitude toward him" (La Segunda, conservative, afternoon, circ. 33,000, 4/7).

3. Chilean Jennifer Lizama (22) lives in Pennsylvania and was nine months pregnant. Jennifer's mother, who lives in Chile, told local police that on Monday her daughter was drugged by two individuals, who induced labor and took her baby. Interpol Chile is confirming the veracity of the information (El Mercurio, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record, circ. 129,000; Las Ultimas Noticias, 4/8).

Pinera and Poll Results

4. Candidate Sebastian Pinera sold his shares in the pharmacy chain, FASA, which has admitted to colluding with other chains to hike prices of pharmaceutical products (El Mercurio, 4/8).

5. A Universidad del Desarrollo-La Segunda poll about the presidential race showed Sebastian Pinera continued to lead Eduardo

Frei, 43% to 33%. In a question about voting preferences in a runoff election, Frei increased his earlier showing by 6 percent (La Segunda, 4/7).

Reforming the Electoral System

¶6. In May, the Executive Office will send to Congress a draft bill to change the binominal electoral system and increase the number of congressmen by 30 seats. The latter is the first step to allow minority political organizations, such as the Communist Party, to have representation in Congress (La Nacion, government-owned, editorially independent, circ. 4,200, 4/8).

Terrorism

¶7. An explosive device detonated in the Municipality of Pudahuel at 1 am yesterday. An anonymous message on a web page claimed responsibility and made reference to Jhonny Cariqueo, a young man who died after clashes with the police on the "Day of the Young Combatant" in 2008. In addition, the Municipality of Conchali and Mall Plaza Vespucio received bomb threats (El Mercurio 4/8; La Segunda, 4/7).

SIMONS